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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 642
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Philip Arnold
Nicholas of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nicholas was an exemplary humanitarian and consummate surgeon and teacher who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a man of great generosity and faith, his life of service and goodwill to his patients, his students, and his church stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, born in Kingston, Jamaica, Dr. Philip Nicholas trained as a Pharmacy Technician at Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine's Parish, before emigrating to America at the age of thirty-one;

WHEREAS, a distinguished scholar, Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas earned his Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and his

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Postgraduate Fellowship in Gynecological Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, while serving as President of his class, which included only two African Americans; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the medical profession, Dr. Nicholas was a founding member of the Meharry Medical College Gynecology Department, served as the first board-certified Obstetric-Gynecology Faculty Member at Meharry, and helped establish Meharry's OB-GYN surgery department; and

WHEREAS, he began his remarkable career at Meharry Medical College in 1959, as a full-time faculty member; for the twenty-five years he diligently served as a member of the faculty; he earned the respect of his students, fellow teachers and administrators for his patience and insight; and

WHEREAS, an astute leader, Dr. Philip Nicholas also served Meharry Medical College as its Vice Chairman of the OB-GYN Surgery Department from 1960-1984 and as its Dean of Admissions of the School of Medicine from 1967-1982; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas was also an active and conscientious member of the Nashville Community; he played a pivotal role in the creation of Planned Parenthood of Nashville and was the first Vice President of Children and Family Services in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Dr. Nicholas distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, even after his retirement from Meharry Medical College, Dr. Philip Nicholas maintained his interest in people and medicine; he volunteered his time and energies to tutor students and medical residents as he continued to care for his private patients; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas's generosity and benevolence was instrumental in many students having the opportunity to attend Meharry Medical College; and

WHEREAS, he was a devout and founding member of the St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, where he had faithfully attended every Sunday that his health permitted, and had served on the Mission Council and as a Lay Reader; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nicholas will be sorely missed by his loving wife of sixty-one years, Violet Nicholas of Nashville; his two daughters, Gertrude E. Brooks of Morganfield, Kentucky and Dr. Allison E. Metz of San Francisco, California; and his six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Dr. Philip Nicholas was the epitome of a kind neighbor and citizen; he was a wonderful human being, beloved by all who were privileged to have known him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas was remembered and honored at a memorial service held on January 11, 2002 at the Fisk Memorial Chapel on the Fisk University Campus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nicholas leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in his public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. Philip Arnold Nicholas, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his distinguished medical and teaching careers, his faithful service to St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, his stalwart commitment to public service, and the courage and conviction with which he lived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Nicholas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.